

Chuah 57-15
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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of switching between a previous base station and a new base station in a wireless communications system having a shared downlink data channel that carries downlink data from the wireless communication system to at least one wireless unit, said method comprising the steps of:

sending signals from the wireless unit to said wireless communications system via an uplink control channel associated with the shared downlink data channel, wherein the signals indicate an identity of said new base station that the wireless unit has selected from which to receive downlink data;

waiting for an indication from the wireless communication system to switch to said new base station;

receiving downlink data from said previous base station via the shared downlink data channel until said indication; and

switching to said new base station in response to said indication to switch to said new base station.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step of sending comprises the step of:

sending signals indicating the identity of said new base station and downlink data rate information on said uplink control channel to said previous base station.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step of receiving comprises the step of:

receiving downlink data from said previous base station via the shared downlink data channel until an indication from said previous base station that data for said wireless unit from said previous base station has been sent.

Chuah 57-15
67108-048

5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step of receiving comprises the step of:

receiving downlink data from said previous base station via the shared downlink data channel until receiving a notification from said previous base station that data is being forwarded to said new base station.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of sending comprises the step of sending base station identification information on the uplink control channel associated with the shared downlink data channel carrying said downlink data to said wireless unit.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said step of sending comprises the step of sending said base station identification information and downlink data rate information on said uplink control channel.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the signals sent via the uplink control channel identifying the new base station comprise a Walsh code, and wherein the sending step comprises spreading the signals in the uplink control channel such that only the new base station receives the signals from the wireless unit.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the indication comprises an indication message that is sent to the previous base station indicating that data packets are ready to be sent to the new base station.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the indication message is an end of data signal indicating that the receiving step has received all data from the previous base station.

Chuah 57-15
67108-048

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the indication is conducted repeatedly until the switching step is conducted.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of sending comprises broadcasting said signals via said uplink control channel, which is a broadcast channel capable of being received by a plurality of base stations.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the wireless unit notifies the previous base station regarding the switching to the new base station via the broadcast channel.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the wireless unit notifies the new base station regarding the switching to the new base station via the broadcast channel.